

# St. Joseph Congregation

*A family devoted to experience Jesus through prayer, formation and service.*

May 17, 2026

## The Ascension of the Lord



Mass Schedule:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Friday 8:15am | Saturday (Vigil) 4:00pm | Sunday 8:00am, 10:30am

12130 W. Center Street, Wauwatosa, WI 53222

Parish Office: 414-771-4626 | Hours: Monday-Thursday 8:00am-3:30pm, Friday 8:00am-12:00pm

St. Joseph Congregation  
12130 W. Center Street  
Wauwatosa, WI 53222  
Parish Office 414-771-4626

Pastoral Team

Rev. Justin Lopina, Pastor  
lopinaj@archmil.org  
Phone Extension 105

Deacon José Gonzales  
joseuugon@yahoo.com

Deacon Kurt Peot  
kurtap@yahoo.com

Catholic Formation Staff

Director of Religious Formation: Alex Burks  
DRE@stjoetosa.com  
Phone Extension 108

Admin. Assistant: Lisa Marynik  
marynikl@stjoetosa.com  
Phone Extension 111

Parish Staff

Parish Admin. Assistant: Nikki Claas  
parishadmin@stjoetosa.com  
Phone Extension 101

Director of Liturgy &  
Business Admin. Assistant:  
Suzanne Silman  
silmans@stjoetosa.com  
Phone Extension 104

Maintenance Director: Matt Adams  
adamsm@stjoetosa.com  
Phone Extension 115

Interim Music Director: Dan O'Connor  
music@stjoetosa.com  
414-444-2244

Trustees

Sandy Schmitt, Secretary  
taschmitt@sbcglobal.net  
Tom Zimmerman, Treasurer  
tom.zimmerman@fiserv.com

Parish Information

**Parish Registration:** Registration for the parish can be done at the Parish Office during normal business hours or after Mass on Sunday in the Welcome Center at the Center St. entrance of church. Young people out of college school are requested to register as adult members.

**Hearing Impaired:** St. Joseph's Church has an "Audio Loop" for use by people who have a hearing aid equipped with a "T switch".

**St. Joseph Chapel Hours:** Monday-Friday 7:00am to 8:00pm.

St. Joseph Catholic School  
2750 N. 122nd Street  
Wauwatosa, WI 53222  
School Office 414-771-5577

**Principal:** Bryanna VanVreede  
vanvreede@stjosephschooltosa.com  
Phone Extension 120

**Admin. Assistant:** Margaret Shea  
sjsoffice@stjosephschooltosa.com  
Phone Extension 114

Pastoral Council

Chair: Joe Herro  
joeherro@yahoo.com  
414-469-7261

*Pastoral Council Members:*

Kelly Ciriacks  
Megan Harney  
Joe McCool  
Jennifer Mendoza  
Sarah Navis  
Jill Pitterle  
Kevin Scott  
Mike Smrz

Alanna Wilgus, Vice Chair

Finance Council

Chair: Bern Enright  
bernright@gmail.com

*Finance Council Members:*

Peter Diotte  
Dave Gauss  
Mont Martin  
Carol Polivka  
Ed Reuter  
Dean Weyer

Buildings & Grounds

Chair: Carol Polivka  
carol\_polivka@polivka.org

School Committee

Chair: Jeremy Blackwood  
jblackwoodmu@gmail.com

Christian Formation

Chair: Larry Barbian  
frodolb@yahoo.com

Home & School Association

Chair: Rachel Blackwood  
rachel.blackwood1@gmail.com



Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament:

Adoration will take place every Monday immediately following the 8:15am Mass until 9:30am.  
Confession offered as well.

Holy Hour/Adoration will take place on the first Thursday of the month from 6:30pm-7:30pm in the Chapel.

Anointing of the Sick:

Anointing of the Sick will take place on the first Friday and first Saturday of the month at the 8:15am Mass.

*Anointing may also be done by appointment.  
Please call the Parish Office.*

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, May 18th

7:35am Rosary  
8:15am Elizabeth Spencer

### Tuesday, May 19th

7:30am The Patriotic Rosary  
8:00am Perpetual Help  
8:15am In thanksgiving for our new  
School Administrative Assistant,  
Margaret Shea

### Wednesday, May 20th

7:35am Rosary  
8:15am Holy Souls in Purgatory

### Thursday, May 21st

No Mass

### Friday, May 22nd

7:35am Rosary  
8:15am In thanksgiving for our new  
Director of Religious Formation,  
Alex Burks

### Saturday, May 23rd

3:00pm Reconciliation  
4:00pm † Larry Maloney  
The Don Borden Family

### Sunday, May 24th

7:00am Reconciliation  
8:00am Our Parish Family  
10:30am † Richard & Theresa Lesniak  
† Lorraine Haines

## Readings of the Week

**Monday:** Acts 19:1-8;  
Ps 68:2-3b, 4-5acd, 6-7b; Jn 16:29-33

**Tuesday:** Acts 20:17-27;  
Ps 68:10-11, 20-21; Jn 17:1-11a

**Wednesday:** Acts 20:28-38;  
Ps 68:29-30, 33-36b; Jn 17:11b-19

**Thursday:** Acts 22:30; 23:6-11;  
Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11; Jn 17:20-26

**Friday:** Acts 25:13b-21;  
Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20b; Jn 21:15-19

**Saturday:** Acts 28:16-20, 30-31; Ps 11:4-5, 7;  
Jn 21:20-25

**Sunday:** Acts 2:1-11; Ps 104:1, 24, 29-31, 34;  
1 Cor 12:3b-7; Jn 20:19-23

## Don't Just Stand There—Do Something

Today we celebrate the great feast of the Ascension of our Lord — that moment when Jesus, 40 days after His Resurrection, was lifted up into heaven as the apostles looked on.

It must have been an extraordinary sight. But the first reading tells us they were not meant to stand there for long. “Men of Galilee, why are you standing there looking at the sky?”

In other words — don't just stand there. Do something.

This is a message for us as Christian stewards. We have been given every grace and blessing — through the Mass and the sacraments, through the Word of God, and through the gifts of our time, talent, and treasure.

We are not meant to simply receive these gifts. We are meant to use them — in gratitude to the One who gave them.

Like the apostles, we are called “to be [His] witnesses... to the ends of the earth.” And we do this not by our own strength, but through the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us.

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## Congratulations on your Baptism!

*Ida Mae*

Daughter of  
Nathan & Nicole  
Vandermause

*Charlie Michael*

Son of  
Paul Allen &  
Rebecca Mastey



Eternal rest grant unto her...

*Our parishioner,  
Frances Lessila  
has passed away.*

Please keep her family and friends  
in your thoughts and prayers.



### Sacraments

**Baptism:** Parents who wish to have their child baptized must be registered members of St. Joseph Parish and practicing their Catholic Faith. A pre-baptism class must be attended prior to the date of the baptism. Baptisms are celebrated at one of the weekend Masses or at another arranged time. For more information contact the Parish Office.

**Funerals:** Please call the Parish Office in the event of the death of a loved one. Arrangements will be made for planning of the service including the musicians. Advanced planning may be done by making an appointment with Father.

**Reconciliation:** Monday 9:00am-9:30am, during adoration, Saturday 3:00 pm-3:50 pm, Sunday 7:00am-7:50am, or by appointment. Please call the Parish Office.

**Weddings:** Couples must contact the pastor to make arrangements for marriage. No date should be set until this is done as the church may not be available. The Catholic party must be a registered and practicing member of the parish for at least six months prior to setting a date. In addition, a six month period of preparation is required for marriage.

### Ministry of the Sick *Please take a moment to pray...*

Heavenly Father, Lay Your healing hands on those who are sick...

AnneLiese Bitzl, Connie Borden, Christine Brady, Chris Burk, Phil Cashill, Margaret Christman, Dennis Cimpl, Marian Cochrane, Katy Connors, Donna Drake, Laura Dundon, Marge Fandre, Jane Foxgrover, Jeanne Fuchs, Josefina Gallegos, Christine Gilpatrick, Cameron Gonring, Amy Grahovac, Aggie Green, Betty Groshek, Jenny Grosschadl, Diane Haase, Bruce Henning, Barb Hesselbein, Alex Holmes, Charles Jacoby, Jim Janette, Joy Kasun, Joyce Keller, Janet Klein, Don Kresse, Richard Kroscher, Doug Kruse, Julian Lombard, Mark Mayer, Sue McCauley, Tom McElwee, Margaret Mehigan, Theresa Motto, Shawn Munch, Lee Neustedter, Loren Norstrem, Dale Peterson, Luis Rodriguez, Dan Rooney, Paul Siverling, Carol & Lee Smaglick, Tim Taff, Betty Weinzierl, & Ann Marie Wick



*We also include any of our loved ones who are dealing with cancer or mental illness.*

If you know anyone who is sick or in the hospital, please let us know. The hospitals do not always contact us.

If you or someone you know is homebound or ill and would like to receive communion, please call the Parish Office.



### Attention Liturgical Ministers

Work will soon begin on the summer schedule. Please take a moment and login into Ministry Scheduler Pro and update your online information with any vacations or changes to your ministry.

This schedule will begin with the weekend of June 13/14 and will run through the beginning of September. All updates need to be completed by Friday, May 22nd to be included in this schedule.

Thank you for your continued time and help.



### Friends, Flip-Flops and Faith

Join us for Firstfruit's Summer Book Club. The book we will be discussing is *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* by Joanna Weaver.

Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm on July 13, 20, 27, Aug 3, 10, 17 in St. Joseph Room or weather permitting we will meet outside in the Rosary Garden.

Registration deadline is July 3.

Cost of book: \$10



To register contact Nikki in the parish office at 414-771-4626.

For Questions contact Mary MacGillis at macmablum@yahoo.com or 414-378-8334.



## *From the Desk of Father Justin*

Happy almost-end-of-the-Easter Season to you all. This weekend featured a pastor's parish update, which I wanted to give before the end of the school year. That parish update will be repeated in the next edition of our newsletter. Today's bulletin article is a supplement to one of the bigger pieces of my parish update, which is our next major Building and Grounds effort: the repair of the '95 roof.

Although I've been making Mass announcements about the roof for a while now, we've had very little in the bulletin so far, because I wanted to be 100% sure that we were good to move ahead with the contractors and the Archdiocese. Now that all that business has been resolved, I have more freedom to communicate the plan to the parish as a whole.

This is a very exciting thing, because this particular part of the campus has been needing some major attention for quite a few years. We call it "the '95 roof" because it was built in 1995, and significant maintenance efforts are to be expected for any roof that's over 30 years old. In essence, the '95 roof is the roof for the gym and an area of the school that includes the computer lab and the 8th grade classroom. Clearly, if any school were to make a "top ten worst places to have a leaky roof" list, "the gym" and "the computer lab" would both be on that list and probably be near the top of the list as well! Therefore, this is certainly an occasion for celebration and gratitude. I'd like to take this space to personally thank those who were able to make this repair happen! You're all wonderful and I am deeply thankful for the parish getting to this point.

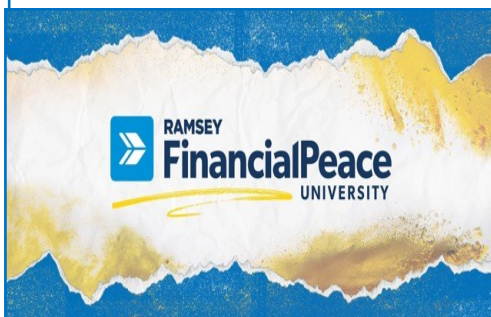
Aside from the basic idea, I had two specific roof matters to bring to everyone's attention in the name of clarity. For one, these repairs are not coming from our standard operations budget. We've secured our funding for the price that was given to us upfront, and we have a clear understanding of the costs and what we're getting for our money. Still, like all repair efforts, there may be relatively minor additions to the grand total. We're ready for that possibility and we'll handle those last-minute charges as they come. We have included our building and grounds donations in our monthly bulletin financial updates, because that money counts as "income" as much as anything else. However, when we report a generous increase of offertory giving for ministry and operations, that increase is entirely independent of the roof repair funds. In other words, we are enjoying a substantial increase of monthly giving, *and* we have also obtained additional funds entirely devoted to the '95 roof.

The other specific roof matter is the issue of timing. It is our sincere wish to get this whole thing done by the end of the summer. Obviously, that's Plan A, but I also want us ready in case Plan A doesn't work out for any reason. The contractors have a number of projects ahead of ours this summer, due to the fact that everyone wants their projects done during the summer months. Purely in the name of fairness, we need to wait our turn. If all goes well, we'll be all set by the start of the school year. If we have a rainy June and July, or if there are other delays between now and late August, we may have to have our roof repair done during the school year - in whole or in part. While that will be an inconvenience, we will work it out with a bit of creativity and teamwork. We can have gym class outside for a little while, and we'll utilize the parish hall or parts of the parish office while we wait for the crew to finish their work. Regardless of the details, I don't believe we'll face anything that we can't handle as a community of faith.

So later this summer, be sure to keep your eye out for a crane and other construction vehicles & gear. It should be an exciting time when it gets here, and it is worthwhile step forward for the parish!

Peace,

Father Justin



Sign up to join the Financial Peace University summer series— information can be found on the St. Joseph website:

<https://www.stjoetosa.com/fpu>

A sign up can be found on that website (scroll to the bottom) or use this QR Code:

Meetings will take place on Tuesdays 6:30-8:00pm beginning June 9th with location TBA.





## St. Joseph Christian Women Rummage Sale

Did you know that the Rummage Sale has provided many unbudgeted items for the Parish? Things like the church carpeting, Gather Books, playground equipment, technology, everything in the kitchen and Parish Hall, school desks, Smart Boards and much more.

This important fundraiser needs not only items to sell but also cash donations to underwrite expenses which include food and beverages for our volunteers, office supplies and other expenses.

We do appreciate these cash donations which also help increase our profits which were approximately \$49,000 in 2025. Please consider a donation sending it to the Parish Center or School or dropping it in the collection basket at Mass. Please note "Rummage Sale" on checks and on the envelopes.

Join the Rummage Sale Family and make new friends while having a good time. For questions or comments or to volunteer (new volunteers only—last year's volunteers will be contacted by Department Coordinators) contact Fran at [Dntolly@aol.com](mailto:Dntolly@aol.com) with the Subject: Rummage.

**Thank you to everyone who has helped make this sale a success.  
St. Joe's is a great parish filled with great people!**

### Donation Days!

June 6: 9:00am-3:00pm

June 8-13: 9:00am-3:00pm

June 15: 9:00am-3:00pm

### Sale Dates!

June 18: 9:00am-5:00pm

June 19: 9:00am-5:00pm

June 20: 9:00am-2:00pm

- \* Please leave **children's clothing, toys, adults & children's books** in the Welcome Center or hold onto items until Donation Days
- \* To donate **furniture** contact Fran, [dntolly@aol.com](mailto:dntolly@aol.com) Subject: Rummage
- \* **NEW THIS YEAR— A "Women's Boutique", we need quality women's clothing!**
- \* The Rummage Sale is expanding its "aluminum can" collection to include **BRASS and COPPER**. Aluminum cans cannot have contained food or been used for cooking.
- \* **THE GREAT JEWELRY COLLECTION...** Thousands of pieces of jewelry are sold each year. Leave in the Welcome Center or the Parish Office.
- \* Currently collecting **FUR OR LEATHER COATS** and **STERLING SILVER**. Leave in the Welcome Center.
- \* **BIKES, BIKES, BIKES**—We would like to sell 60 bikes again this year—adult or kids—leave between the garages labeled "Rummage Sale".

## Upcoming Activities at St. Joseph's:

### Monday, May 18

- 5:00pm-7:00pm: Playpen Sports Academy in Field  
6:30pm-8:00pm: Consoling the Heart of Jesus  
Group Retreat in St. Joseph Rm  
7:30pm-8:30pm: Elite AST Basketball AAU in Gym

### Tuesday, May 19

- 9:00am-10:30am: St. Joseph Bible Study in St. Joseph Rm  
7:00pm-8:00pm: Pilgrims on the Road to Emmaus  
in St. John Rm  
7:00pm-8:30pm: One on One Milwaukee Basketball  
in Gym  
8:30pm-9:30pm: Tosa West Basketball Training in Gym

### Wednesday, May 20

- 6:30am-7:45am: St. Peters Stones Group in St. Mary Rm  
9:00am-11:00am: St. Faustina Small Group  
in St. Matthew Rm  
3:15pm-4:00pm: Girl Scouts Troop 37999 in Library  
3:15pm-4:15pm: Spanish Club in Spanish Rm  
4:30pm-6:00pm: Softball Practice in Field/Gym  
5:00pm-7:00pm: Playpen Sports in Field  
6:30pm-8:00pm: Pastoral Council in St. Joseph Rm  
7:30pm-8:30pm: Elite AST Basketball AAU in Gym  
8:30pm-9:30pm: Tosa West Basketball Training in Gym

### Thursday, May 21

- 1:00pm-2:00pm: Catholic Financial Life Chapter 216  
in St. Mary Rm  
6:00pm-7:00pm: Track Practice in Lower Parking Lot/Field  
6:30pm-8:00pm: Adult Choir Rehearsal in Church  
7:00pm-8:00pm: St. Joseph Bible Study Online  
7:00pm-8:30pm: One on One Milwaukee Basketball  
in Gym  
8:30pm-9:30pm: Tosa West Basketball Training in Gym

### Friday, May 22

No Events

### Saturday, May 23

- 8:00am-1:00pm: Softball Games in Baseball Diamond  
8:30am-10:30am: Art & Environment in Church  
9:00am-Noon: Playpen Sports in Field  
1:00pm-2:30pm: Handbell Rehearsal in Music Rm  
5:00pm-7:00pm: Religious Formation in St. Joseph Rm

### Sunday, May 24

- 11:30am-1:30pm: Art & Environment in Church  
4:00pm-6:00pm: Tosa West Basketball Training in Gym

## Summer Office Hours



The Parish office is open  
Monday through Thursday  
8:00am-3:30pm  
and Friday 8:00am-Noon  
Memorial Day through Labor Day  
beginning 5/22/26.



## “What’s the Tea?”

# WOMEN'S Wellness Day

Saturday, May 23, 2026  
8:30 a.m. — 2 p.m.

St. Martin de Porres Catholic Church  
3114 N. Second St., Milwaukee

Come for a day of renewal for  
the body, mind and spirit.

#### ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:

- Understanding Alzheimer's and Women
- Spiritual Wellness Workshop
- Interactive “What’s the Tea?”  
Tea Wellness Experience
- Dialogue with a community of women
- Motivational resources

Light breakfast and lunch will be served.

#### TO REGISTER:



Bishop James T. Schuerman invites  
you to attend the

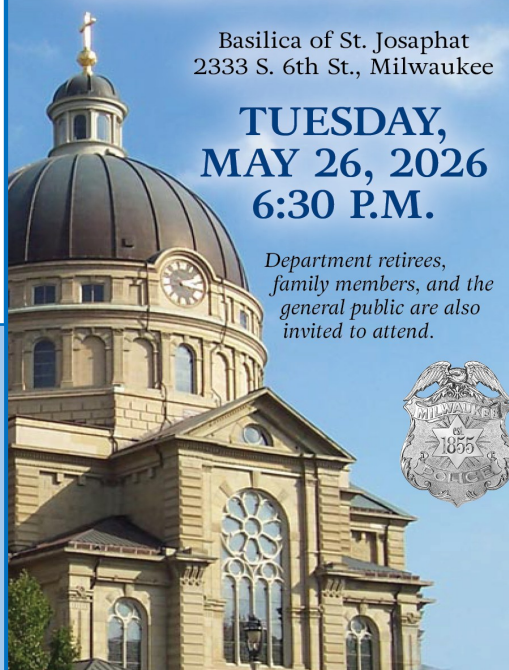
# Blue Mass

for Law Enforcement,  
First Responders and their families

Basilica of St. Josaphat  
2333 S. 6th St., Milwaukee

TUESDAY,  
MAY 26, 2026  
6:30 P.M.

Department retirees,  
family members, and the  
general public are also  
invited to attend.



ARCHDIOCESE of MILWAUKEE



Welcome to St. Joseph Congregation.  
We are blessed to have you worship  
with us today!

We pray that our celebration of the Mass spiritually  
feeds you and that you feel welcome among us.

Have questions about St. Joseph  
Congregation or the Catholic Church?  
We're happy to answer! Just contact  
Father Justin, Dennis Sylva, our Adult  
Minister, or the parish office (414) 771-4626.

Learn more about us at [stjoetosa.com](http://stjoetosa.com)



At St. Joseph Catholic School we offer a  
faith filled academic experience for  
children 3K—8th grade.

If you would like to schedule a  
tour and see what our school offers  
please contact our principal,

Bryanna VanVreede, at  
414-771-5577 or  
[vanvredeb@stjosephschooltosa.com](mailto:vanvredeb@stjosephschooltosa.com)

Learn more about our day school  
at [stjosephschooltosa.com](http://stjosephschooltosa.com)

**HELP  
WANTED!**



Adults and Junior High and older students are needed on Saturday, June  
20th at 1:45pm to help close the Rummage Sale.

**Also needed—pick up trucks or trailers.**



Help us spread the word about the St. Joseph Rummage Sale! Share a post  
on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, or any social media platform to help us  
reach more people and make this event a success. Every post, share, and  
mention helps — thank you for your support!

Contact Fran with questions or to volunteer—[dntolly@aol.com](mailto:dntolly@aol.com)

**Restaurant And Lounge Open For Lunch And Dinner**

Stop by our Lounge for Sandwich Or  
Enjoy a Steak In Our Dining Room!

3041 North Mayfair Rd  
414-476-6900

**Alto's**

**Banquet Facilities Available**



Dr. David J. Foti

**FOTI Chiropractic**

11717 W. North Avenue

Wauwatosa WI

414-259-9008

[www.fotichiropractic.com](http://www.fotichiropractic.com)



Dr. Felicia Toy

Should you wish to  
advertise your business here,  
please contact the  
Parish Office  
at 414-771-4626 or  
[parishadmin@stjoetosa.com](mailto:parishadmin@stjoetosa.com)

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Registered Suzuki Instructors



Colleen Fitzgerald

Celestine Fitzgerald

Parish members

Email: [barcel.suzuki@gmail.com](mailto:barcel.suzuki@gmail.com)

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